

CERCOSPORA LEAF SPOT OF HONEYSUCKLE

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Honeysuckle, *Lonicera sempervirens* L., is native to Florida and is commonly called trumpet or coral honeysuckle. It is an evergreen, high-climbing, twining vine which does not make a dense covering of growth. Leaves are oval, blue-green, and 1 to 3 inches (2.5-7.6 cm) long. Several varieties exist having yellow, coral, orange-red, and brilliant scarlet tubular flowers that are up to 2 inches (5.1 cm) long and are borne in clustered spikes. Flowering occurs intermittently throughout the spring and summer months. The geographic distribution of honeysuckle is from Connecticut to Florida and Texas (1, 3).

Cercospora leaf spot, caused by *Cercospora antipus* Ellis & Holway (2, 4), is one of the relatively few diseases affecting honeysuckle. The fungus also occurs on *Lonicera flava* Sims (5) and *L. glaucescens* (Rydb.) Rydb. (2).

SYMPTOMS. Leaf spots are subcircular to irregular, dirty gray above and dark brown on the lower surface, up to 4 mm in diameter (Fig. 1). Spotting of leaves is usually more prevalent from mid-summer to early fall.

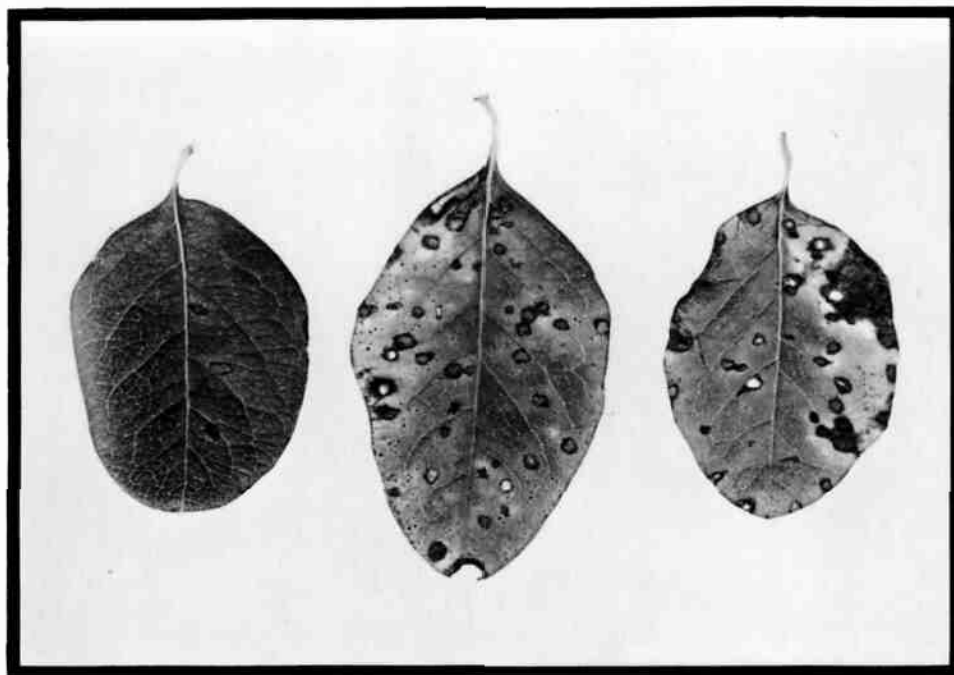


Fig. 1. *Cercospora* leaf spot of honeysuckle, *Lonicera sempervirens*, caused by *Cercospora antipus*, with few leaf spots on left to multiple and coalescence of leaf spots on right, accompanied by leaf yellowing.

CONTROL. Any of the fungicides recommended for general application on ornamentals like Daconil, Benlate, Dithane M 45, etc., should help control this disease. Treatment should consist of thorough coverage of the foliage applied soon after the first symptoms of leaf spotting occur.

SURVEY AND DETECTION. Observe mature foliage during the warm, moist months of summer for gray to brown discrete spots, randomly occurring on the leaf surface.

Literature Cited

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